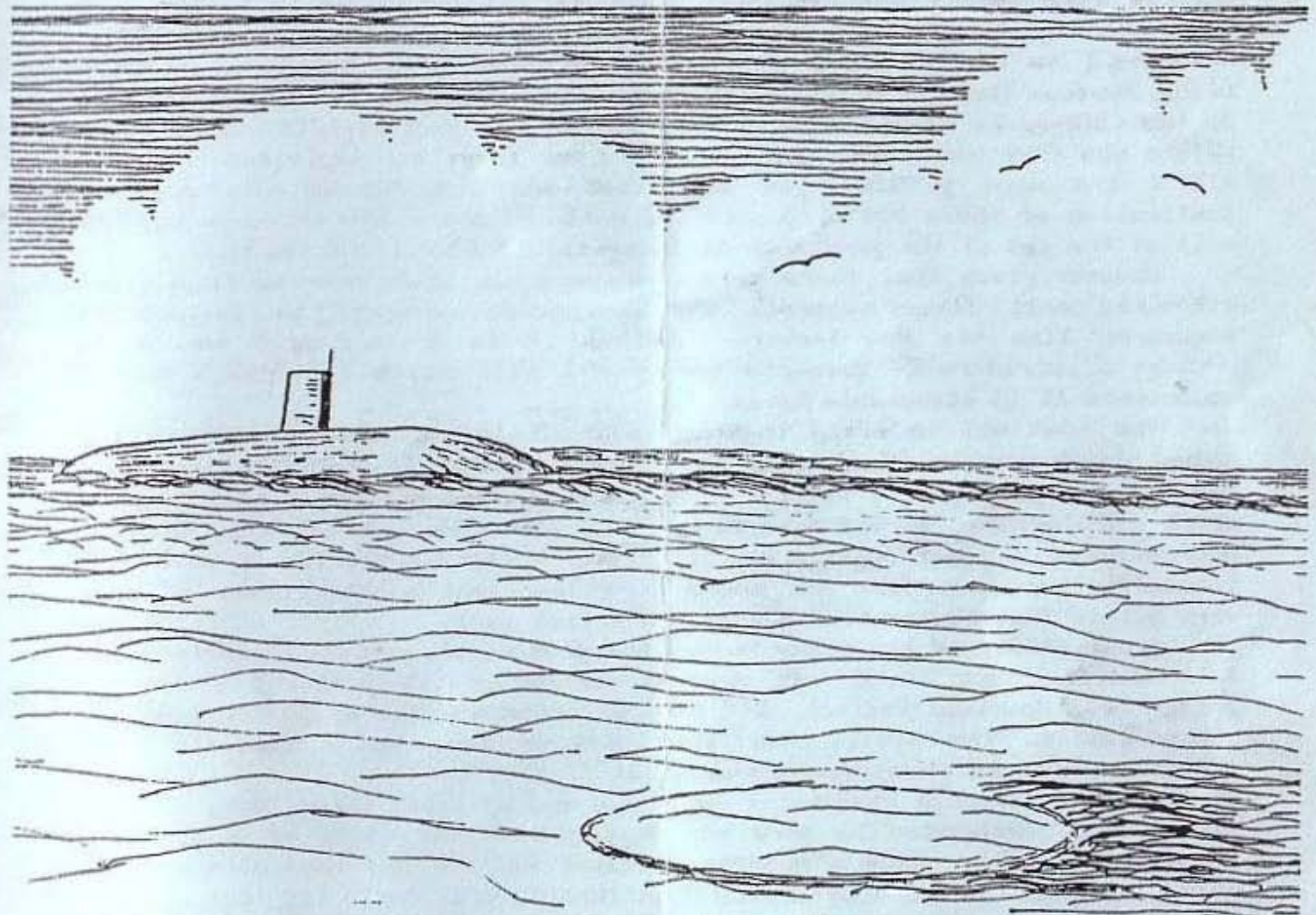


NORTHERN UF NEWS

156
AUG 1992



All the news, views and up to date cases £6 for six
Editor: Jenny Randles Art: Bill Callaghan

CONTENT: Usual features plus... p. 4 Return of the killer mink...p.5
hypnosis comments ...p.6...the Peter Day film: A final
solution?...p.7...Robert France, eclipsing the unknown (part 1)...p.8...
Circular Logic ...p.7 ... p.14 - 16 ... Cases from
Lancashire, Merseyside, Staffs, North Yorks, Ireland, Scotland and South Wales
...including the Liverpool encounters and a mysterious photograph

37 HEATHBANK ROAD CHEADLE HEATH STOCKPORT CHESHIRE ENGLAND SK3 0UP

J. R. Comments . . . Apologies again due to this issue being a week or so late. I can but remind readers that it is not easy getting a few days together to produce NUN (a self-operated long haul). Other matters sometimes take precedence. In this case I had to go to Hungary unexpectedly to do some TV work... Don't all say 'aaah' at once. All I can promise is that NUN won't very often be late and when it is hopefully not by more than a week or two. So, please just bear with me. Thanks.

In late June I was extremely lucky to be invited to participate in what was undoubtedly the most important UFO event that I have ever attended. I am not yet in a position to discuss it as openly as I would wish, because the 150 or so who were present agreed to let the proceedings do the talking. We cannot refer to what any of the participants said or even relate who they were! This may seem weird, but there are legitimate reasons. All I can urge is that you watch out for the (undoubtedly mammoth) publication of these 100 + papers which the Fund for UFO Research hope to sell at the end of the year. When it is available I will let you know.

However, given that there were pre-symposium press stories in sources like the Wall Street Journal and post-event coverage in influential magazines like the New Yorker - and as it is a very open secret in UFOlogy's corridors of paranoia anyway - I will say a few things that I understand it is acceptable to say.

The idea was to bring together some of the people involved in the abduction phenomenon from around the world (although in practice that meant the USA top guns plus a handful from elsewhere). We are not simply talking about UFOlogists here. Indeed, to a degree they were outgunned by professional psychologists, psychiatrists, therapists, etc. The abductees themselves were not left out and a very important working panel of some very astute individuals took a full and active part.

Great minds and big money backed the project, which comprised five very full working days at MIT (a prestigious university across the Harvard Bridge from downtown Boston). MIT had not organised the symposium, I should stress. But as the spirit was undeniably serious and scientific they probably could not have disapproved of it if they had.

In the five days (beginning early and ending late) things were nothing like a UFO conference. The work was arranged on the lines of a standard scientific meeting where a problem is first defined and then attacked. The abduction question was thus broken down into several dozen key topics which took us logically through the subject from how we first discover reports to how we might define therapy methods to help abductees cope with the aftermath of their experience. Those invited were then asked to submit papers on as many of these sub-headings as they wished and a refereed panel ultimately chose which were to be accepted and which were not. The result was an extraordinary high level, depth and number of the presentations.

However, even more intriguing was the fact that time limits were imposed of the strictest order and rigorously enforced through the use of a ticking clock which sounded the end of a paper with an alarm! When I tell you that some papers were given 3 minutes and none longer than 20 you will see what I mean by rigorous (ruthless might be a more appropriate word). In fact this worked exceptionally well, because it almost entirely prevented the usual trend for waffling. Since many of the papers were detailed reports on statistics or experiments specially carried out by the presenter they had to give a good delivery of the salient facts otherwise they would have just said hello and who they were when the dreaded buzzer cut them off!

As much time as necessary was devoted after each paper to a thrash out of points raised by it. This was less like question time than a free for all. Some special sessions were then arranged at the end of the event to set up working parties to continue the tasks identified by the five days and create long overdue future practices.

All in all, this was real dreamtime UFOlogy unlike I have ever seen it before. My memories are of the long walk each morning from my hotel by the Red Sox stadium across the beautiful river and then my return that night as the baseball crowds ebbed peacefully onto the streets with the lights of the city twinkling in the summer heat. But as important are the memories of what was happening in those elderly buildings on the pretty campus as we sensed that this was an opportunity to start afresh and do what maybe we should have done about the abduction mystery right from day one.

I cannot discuss what the conference achieved or reveal specifically what was said. You must wait for the proceedings for that. But I can tell you that I presented five papers and explain what these were. One was a detailed statistical review of 43 British abductions selected from 100 possibilities. Another was a review of the hypnotic regression experiment that I personally conducted with a clinical psychologist (as briefly mentioned in NUN last year). I gave a detailed presentation of one single, evidential case. I also presented for the first time detailed results of an experiment I carried out to try to duplicate and extend the infamous Lawson/McCall imaginary abductee work with intriguing results. And I did a global analysis of what motivations the abductees had been offered by their abductors for the reasons behind their abduction.

Much of the work I did was stimulated by the symposium. Just remember that there were many other professionals there each offering their own insights and research of many years, a lot of which I am equally sure was brought into being because of the creation of this event. As a result I think you will begin to see that it possibly provided a more comprehensive, fact-packed and analytically based review of the abduction evidence in five gruelling and (for most of us) emotionally overpowering days than all the UFO meetings of the last decade put together.

I know that I came away convinced that the rest of UFOlogy could benefit vastly from more symposia organised like this. Just think, if we tackled car stop cases, or crop circles, or several other issues in this manner, through the auspices of some recognised academia, then maybe we would make real progress in these areas too not just sit twiddling our thumbs. I wonder about our desire to continue to hold public meetings in libraries where the same people give pretty much the same lectures to the same audience and then are reported in the same papers year after year?

Is that actually the science of UFOlogy or a recipe for stagnation?

NEWS ROUND UP:



:: Stuart Smith has a coup with exclusive rights to market FATE in the UK. The worlds oldest continually produced monthly about the paranormal is over 400 issues old. There are tacky adverts for lucky charms and some weirdness but its 120 odd pages are always a good read. It has regular columns from Jerry Clark (on UFOs) and John Keel (on everything!) and at the rate of £2.50 per copy (cheques to ENIGMA) the July 92 crop circles and Sept 92 abduction specials are good value: - c/o 15 Rydal St Burnley Lancs BB10 1HS

:: Odd goings on in the East Midlands. I have lost track of the number of letters I have received about a lecture in Mansfield in June where someone claimed to represent UAPROL, a super secret 1000 member UFO group with amazing equipment (eg they'd picked up a space satellite recently blown up by weird powers!) In fact UAPROL is a real group that did exist in Leicester, as claimed, and had an old van, as I recall, with some bits of equipment. They had a run in with that mysterious lot of trouble makers APEN and (we were told) folded in the late 1970's. Now the story goes they went 'underground' instead. In the May 1978 NUN (issue 48) there is a profile of the then constituent group in which founder Trevor Thornton relates how he 'wishes to give (information) freely to others'. In the latest African newsletter from Cynthia Hind Trevor is still listed as an active investigator in her Zimbabwe team, where he moved around the time mentioned above. Who knows about the stories now circulating, but they do seem to be based on some semblance of truth at least. Clive Potter - a stalwart of the Leicestershire scene who recalls UAPROL well (no doubt from his pram!) - is, I gather, probing the background to this remarkable 'super group' story.

:: Want an exclusive design UFO T-shirt? White with a black design by Kevin Flannery with crop circles, UFOs, MIBs and aliens on it it is available for £5.50 (£7 outside UK) via: Philip Mantle 1 Woodhall Drive Batley WF17 7SW

:: A new magazine hoping to feature the paranormal is Banshee Revolution Co (!) at £1.25 per issue via Rachel Fones 16 Rigby Close Croydon CR0 4JU

:: Midnight Books new catalogue has some good second-hand UFO stuff in (inc a copy of UFOs: A British Viewpoint, long out of print). Contact: The Haven 21 Windsor Rd Sidford Sidmouth Devon EX10 9SJ Tel: 0395-516806

:: Incidentally, my French translation of Phenomena (see last issues news) was pretty (em...) (well its a long time since I did French GCE). Anyhow, thanks to Perry Petrakis for pointing out they actually said that 'In England, unlike other countries, really *uninteresting* UFO journals are very rare'... I translated that as 'really interesting', which is ever so slightly different... er... *c'est la vie en l'etude des OVNI's* ?

RETURN (AGAIN) OF THE KILLER MINK

This long running saga began when Miles Johnston (erstwhile of Ireland and now in England - as I found to my recent amazement when a guest - working on a certain TV show which shall remain nameless) first wrote to inform of a wave of alleged animal mutilations on the Scottish Isles. Reader Dr Peter Talbot checked it out (issue 153) with negative results (ie nobody on the islands professed to know about it) before Victor Kean (issue 154) wrote from Germany to tell us about a documentary 'the return of the killer mink' screened in April which appeared to confirm the mutilations.

Now, thanks to the BBC and some very dedicated in-depth research by Dr Talbot we have a clear idea of what is what. The programme is in fact titled 'Invasion of the killer mink' and is co-produced by the BBC Natural History unit in Bristol and the National Geographic Society. It aired in the UK on 13 January 1992. No video is available, sadly, but the producer, Mark Jacobs, spoke willingly to Dr Talbot and loaned him a copy of his post-production script. I have seen relevant sections and can confirm all this.

What does it tell us? The programme described how the American mink has proliferated in Britain since its accidental release here and as a result how many small animals (eg rabbits, chickens, etc) have died through its fierce bite to the throat. The item Victor Kean describes ie 'mutilated sheep...with brains sucked out' actually came from the Cotswolds, not the Scottish Islands. The deceased were tiny lambs only a few days old with the classic mink puncture wound and a hole in the brain. On the show a sheppard did speculate about brains being sucked out, but the programme argued that the cause was more probably scavenging crows after the mink had left. Mink traps were set in the area, a mink was caught and the lamb killings stopped.

Scottish islands were only briefly mentioned twice in the programme and neither in relation to mutilations (devastated crow populations and proliferation of otters being the theme). Indeed at no point were animal mutilations of any unexplained sort referred to at all, Dr Talbot notes. As he remarks; 'Miles Johnston's original uncorroborated assertion was of a radical increase in animal mutilations in the north western Scottish isles. I could find no evidence of this and I LIVE there... The documentary Victor Kean mentions turns out to have no relevance to the issue'.

Pete Talbot points out he is taking no sides on this debate and its my decision to devote all this space to a fairly trivial matter. I have done so for one reason. I think it shows how a story can spread (rather like the mink) and take on a life of its own. Dr Talbot's research on the islands and into this documentary sound a cautionary note about rumours within the paranormal. Do other animal mutilation (or UFO) waves have similar origins?

MIND OUT OF TIME AND SPACE

Wolverhampton reader Andrew Kean (no relation of Victor, I think) has some interesting comments on regression hypnosis.

He points out that in past-life regression a major sceptical argument is that 'too many memories seemed to pop up from the subjects present life, so invalidating the past life experience... But if the possibility of reincarnation is correct and we do hold existing previous lives in our subconscious memories (or collective conscious) it is still our present minds that are doing all the sifting and searching bringing in our present ideals, biases, conditioning, etc. These can conflict with a 'real' other life or experience or abduction... I think its like pouring a cup full of water into a tank of water and then trying to isolate that cup as a separate volume.

There does seem to be a collected pool of thought (at work). Look at Ian Watson and his book 'Miracle Visitors' and of the connection with the Pteradactyl sighting in Yorkshire (see 'Abduction', Jenny Randles). The mind seems to be playing a big role here. The amazing thing about the UFO phenomenon is that it increases its possibilities. Why did we not have the CE4 from the beginning? Is our mind 'enfolding' to most of these 'somethings' of a form that we still as yet do not fully understand. It almost makes me think that if you want it to be a (certain) phenomenon then it may well materialize (that way) by your focusing on it.'

I (JR) consider that the Andrew is right to want to restore the role that our consciousness plays within the close encounter. I see the evidence as undeniable that abductions are conditioned by personal and cultural views, but that is no sceptical 'all in the mind' dismissal. The truth is more complex than little grey men riding starships. I think it is a question of space, time and consciousness - a real key to the next frontier - mind.

THE PETER DAY FILM EXPLAINED? - AN UPDATE

Readers may recall the debate that has raged for years about the famous 23 seconds of film taken by building surveyor Peter Day on the morning of 11 January 1973 whilst on the Oxfordshire/Buckinghamshire border (see the BUFORA Case History, 'Fire in the Sky', 1988, still available).

Last year Stuart Campbell (unfairly to say the least) claimed credit in a photography magazine for 'solving' the case when UFOlogy had failed. He said it was an F-111 jet in trouble that was dumping fuel. This theory was not new to his article. It was discussed at length in the BUFORA report and articles I wrote for OMNI and The Unknown some years ago. Stuart had now got hold of the accident report on the crash of the fated F-111 some miles away and 40 minutes after the sighting. Using its content Campbell said the case was proven, but did not release the report. Peter Day strongly disagreed but both his letter stating this and mine disputing the misrepresentation of our investigation of this case were ignored by the photography journal.

Now thanks to reader James Sneddon of Falkirk it seems that Aircraft Illustrated (issues June and July 1992) feature items by Anthony Thornborough (crediting Campbell) which discuss the accident. They take a very detailed (jargon filled) look at the doomed mission with extensive transcripts from the ground to air recordings showing what the crew said.

There were two F-111s involved (code names Sewn 12, which crashed, and Sewn 11 which flew alongside it until the crew ditched). We know that the UFO sighting occurred at about 09.00. In fact the recordings show the F-111's problem began at 08.58 and 30 seconds, or just 2 minutes after take off from RAF Upper Heyford. This clearly places at the precise spot where the UFO was seen and filmed by Peter Day and several others.

A fuel line nut on the fighter caused a leak and the port engine was engulfed by fire. This burnt through the rudder wiring causing the plane to become unsteerable. Major Bob Kroos on aircraft number 68-024 reported the incident ('have a fire on left engine...we are single engine and might be losing control here...') Sewn 11 advised 'Dump fuel if you have to Bob' and the stricken pilot confirmed 'We're dumping; we're gonna go ahead and dump.'

Thornborough's article notes at this point that it was standard procedure in such an emergency to eject fuel through the aft vent, the released fuel catching fire and burning up as a huge streamer. He adds; 'The resultant flamer was spotted by several ground observers and was in this instance erroneously attributed to a UFO - but that's another story.'

Other details added are that the aircraft was at 2000 feet and stopped dumping fuel shortly before 09.04. It was stuck on a heading east and having to make a right handed turn to try to fly back west toward the base. The rest of the transcript is a fascinating account of the attempts to rescue the plane. The fire had been very brief and fuel was soon very low. They had a problem getting the gear down for an emergency landing and after much hassle made a risky move at 09.47, at which point Kroos immediately lost control and blew the plane's ejection pod. The jet had climbed to 5000 feet and so was well out of sight above cloud. As the crew parachuted to safety the empty F-111 screamed to earth in a fireball near Milton Keynes and by good fortune impacted into a field causing no damage or injury.

The outcome of all of this is very significant. The facts as outlined in the transcript leave us with no realistic alternative. The plane was at the correct position, flying on the right heading and exactly at the height where the cloud ceiling began (thus making it invisible at ground level).

In addition it had lost one engine so sound output was probably low enough not to be heard by a schoolyard full of children or a man inside a car some way to the south. At exactly the point where the orange firey UFO was filmed the flaming F-111 began to eject blazing fuel. This was shut off quickly, the plane turned south (thus making its afterburner disappear from that direction) and climbed well above cloud; now invisible and inaudible.

Looking at these facts it seems hard to doubt that the object seen and filmed that day must be considered as resolved. Surely it had to be the stricken F-111 jet in its first moments of a mundanely triggered disaster. The witnesses still described what they saw very well. Nor (despite what Campbell says) does it reflect badly on UFOlogy. The facts pointing toward this conclusion were accumulated by painstaking research without the restricted accident report which he secured and which shows all the above.

I suspect Peter Day will still disagree, and one must respect his opinions of course. But the only alternative seems to be that a UFO and F-111 were both in almost exactly the same place at this precise time and were behaving in identical fashion. Had there been any reason to suspect that the accident to the F-111 might be puzzling or have occurred at the same moment the UFO was filmed, then that option would remain viable - ie a UAP could have been seen and triggered the catastrophe. In fact the crash had a simple cause and happened as the jet screamed off the runway two minutes before the film was taken. It occurred in a manner that is not unique or unusual. To be honest that really does appear to be that.

ECLIPSING THE UNKNOWN (1) by Robert France

Robert France is a very interesting and unusually objective contactee whose recent lectures and ideas have impressed many. He has produced an audio tape (The Shadow of Man - £6 post inc from Enigma - address p. 3) with his views backed by the music of Glasgow rock group CEIV.

If we are told that UFOs are a mixture of as yet unrecognised weather phenomena and visiting extraterrestrial craft that is not a particularly traumatic statement. In fact a lot of people would accept it. But if we were to suggest that some so called UFOs and most aliens were manifestations from what may be loosely termed 'magical realms' and that UFO researchers are (therefore) students of the occult studying a subject that is merely posing in an acceptable guise, then that is not so comforting and many readers will no doubt reject it as 'unscientific'.

But, other than what amounts to nothing more than unsubstantiated claims of the retrieval of crashed alien craft, there is no evidence whatsoever that this subject has its origins on other planets or that the architects of these vessels emanate from a technology based civilisation.

Contactees and abductees form the most predominant link between humanity and these intelligences. These people have the most intimate form of contact with beings who claim non-earthly origins. After about 50 years what evidence do (even) these people have for the technological basis of these entities?

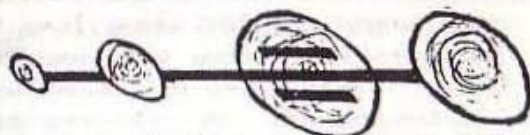
A few are delivered a quasi-science which is supposed to give indications about the power system of vessels (eg designs for perpetual motion devices which clearly have no mechanical possibilities). Other than this there is little if any meaningful technical knowledge offered. Abductees report seeing some of this, but how meaningful is it when the abductee is unqualified to examine the systems or to ask questions?

By far the overwhelming number of contactees are chosen as either spiritual figureheads or are asked to make the aliens presence known to the rest of the planet. They are effectively given missions which set them apart from the rest of the population. Some may even be told (or have deluded themselves into thinking) that they are a new Christ; ie they are the catalyst which will introduce a new set of moral and spiritual ethics to this planet.

Of even greater interest are those people who have to retrieve hidden artifacts or are to head a colony of survivors the aftermath of the proposed global upheaval. Last year I sat and listened to various 'chosen' leaders. We would sit with our tea and biscuits and discuss the postulated 'Armageddon'. This would be spoken by them with a certain detachment, as though they could see no real discomfort in what they were describing. I found it was like listening to a tirade from political candidates. They were trying to 'sell' their philosophy and convince me that 'their aliens' were right.

To be continued in the next issue...

CIRCULAR LOGIC



It was the best of times. It was the worst of times, as Dickens might have said of summer 1992; when the crop circle world got its come uppance.

Media publicity has been very thin on the ground (which is great news in my opinion). I personally believe we would do well now to pack in cereology for three or four years until every last drop of P.R. has been wrung from the field and the plethora of hoaxers have finally given up in despair. Then, as I have long predicted in this column, we will return to the realities of the crop circle phenomenon; which means a few quite simple patterns spread over a worldwide geographical area turning up every summer.

Much of what we have seen since 1989, with a vast explosion of circle numbers, bizarre designs, press publicity, books and circle researchers has been founded on the quicksand of sociological hoaxing. It is a fascinating story for the historians of the future as it probably teaches a lot about wish fulfilment and our woeful interpretation of evidence. However, behind it all there is today (just as there has always been) a REAL crop circle mystery. It is just that most crop circle researchers stopped investigating this when dollar signs masquerading as tabloid banner headlines created an eldorado of delusions and illusions that were far more lucrative instead.

This year only about 100 circles appeared in Britain (way down on the last three summers). Remarkably, many cerealogists rejected most (or even all) of them as fakes! I flew with Busty Taylor over the best in late July and viewed others on the ground with Paul Fuller and agree that most of what I saw was dubious. I suspect that a couple of them may have been real, but researchers are now so wary after being caught out in the past that nobody is brave enough to say which are which!

Moreover, the great 'hoax-a-circle' competition (which as readers know I did not endorse) seems to have backfired. The best pictograms there created look to have had all the hallmarks of so-called real circles and were done in relative ease with minimal evidence that may have led to them being detected. Cerealogists have kept ominously quiet about the outcome, which suggests it was less favourable than they had hoped. But there is no doubt what the media thought of it. They proclaimed it to be a vindication of the widespread (or even universal) nature of hoaxing.

Crop circle research will not vanish without a fight. Paul Fuller intends to continue 'The Crop Watcher'. Issue 12 (£1.50 per issue or £9 for six via 3 Selborne Ct, Tavistock Close, Romsey Hants SO51 7TY) has a long reflective look at this summers rum goings on and will hopefully chronicle the painful transition of the subject from media sideshow to a mundane and small scale serious endeavour that is tackling the few real circles instead of chasing the elusive heels of rampaging packs of hoaxers.

It appears that nearly all the main crop circle figureheads are fading from the scene. Pat Delgado split with Colin Andrews. Colin, along with George Wingfield and Richard Andrews (so it is being said) are all moving or have already moved to the USA and will continue lecturing; although returning to the UK from time to time. Meanwhile Pat Delgado announced the suspension of his newsletter and there are rumours floating around about the future directions of other prominent figures and groups. It is almost as if a giant bubble (filled with egg custard) has exploded over the crop circle community who are suffering post traumatic stress syndrome as a result.

That said, crop circle publication is still taking place. Michael Chorost returned to the UK with an excellent team of scientists and a lot of money to do the kind of sampling in search of radioactivity and chemical changes that should have been done before last years pronouncements. All indications are that the 1992 experimentation was first-class science which can only be applauded. However, given the fact that almost no cereologist reckons this years circles are other than fakes the results of these tests should be more than a little interesting.

Chorost has annotated a listing of some 250 books, newsletters, articles, videos, etc - and the result (Circles of Note) is a brave and worthwhile attempt. Published by Dennis Stacy and costing £1.50 (or \$3 US) this 16 page A 4 booklet comes via: -Box 12434 San Antonio Texas 78212 USA

Also in print in his own right at last is pilot Busty Taylor whose aerial photographs were as responsible as any factor for creating the global interest in circles. He has not had the full recognition he deserved but has now brought out a small full colour book Crop Circles of 1991 to redress the balance. Its title says it all; a 48 page vibrant presentation depicting the highlights of last years circle crop from the fish and dolphin shapes to the complexities of formations like the brain. Only captions annotate the full page shots and so the price might seem high. But visually this is a most appealing book and for those wanting to document the crop circle affair it is hard to beat. Published by Beckhampton Books (The Lamb Yard, The Parade, Marlborough, Wilts Tel: 0672-515054) price £6.99.

FOR YOUR PERUSAL

Major articles elsewhere



OVNI (PRA Newsletter; 12 Tilton Grove Kirk Hallam Ilkeston DE1 4GR)

This local group newsletter is one of the few UFO publications that devotes as much space to crop circles. Edited by Omar Fowler it shows his experience in both fields well. The August issue has photos of circles in Mansfield and a report on the wave of UFO sightings in the area after their appearance.

SPI Aug (£10, for 5; 41 The Braes Tullibody Clackmannanshire FK10 2TT)
Always 36 interesting pages on Scottish mysteries. This issue features reports on the years activities at Loch Ness, UFOs, of course (an abduction and report on the Livingston plaque), crop circles and a good deal more

Annals of the Enquiring (£5, for 4; 8 St John St Wells Somerset BA5 1SW)
This has become quite a neat little mag with many snips of up to date stories. Eg the July issue has all the latest Nessie sightings. Good value.

Earthquest Jun (£1 from ABC Books PO Box 189 Leigh on Sea Essex SS9 1NF)
Andy Collins always puts together a visually impressive publication with things you won't read elsewhere. That's true here with up to date crop circle material, the discovery of the seventh (buried) sword and a whole lot more.

Fortean Times (£2 per issue; £12 for 6; 20 Paul St Frome Somerset BA11 1DX)
Another change in format (to A4) but the usual mix of great news and in depth features on all things weird. June has a free crop circle info poster and an SHC special... Aug has a review of the Alternative 3 TV spoof of 1977

Folklore Frontiers 16 (£5, for 4; 5 Egton Dr Seaton Carew Cleveland TS25 2AT)
Pot pourri of news items about modern folklore and urban legends. Curious.

TLH 116 (£7, for 3; PO Box 92 Penzance Cornwall TR18 2XL)
You might think this is not really relevant, but as it covers all the latest news in such fields as earth mysteries, leys, earthlights, shamanism and energies from ancient sites - plus Paul Devereux's apt commentary - it is.

The Skeptic (£12, for 6; PO Box 475 Manchester M60 2TH)
Jun - has an interesting piece on producing hoax UFOs via home made hot air balloons; an IFO source NUN has referred to on several occasions and which even now (I believe) is behind some of the current Gulf Breeze sightings.

Swamp Gas Journal (Chris Rutkowski Box 1918 Winnipeg Man. Canada R3C 3R2)
A digest of latest news and thinking with limited distribution. You can swap Fortean info for it but send an international reply coupon. No subscription.

Oribter Summer 92 (PO Box 652 Reading MA 01867 USA)
Had the great pleasure of having dinner with editor Jim Melesciuc, as charming and interesting as his magazine always is. Its up to date, reflective and very objective in its look at American UFOlogy.

Just Cause June (\$20, for 4; PO Box 218 Coventry CT 06238 USA)
Also at the dinner was Barry Greenwood (making a four-way UFO journal editors rap - Keith Basterfield from Oz being the fourth). We discussed the breakthrough material that Barry has retrieved which documents the foo fighters via official archive data. This issue starts a precis of this important stuff which has added a few surprises to our knowledge.

Strange 9 (£13.50, for 4; Box 2246 Rockville MD 20847 USA)
America's Fortean Times in spirit and content. Much too much to mention but it takes weeks to read and its usually all well worth it. Recommended warmly

MUFON Journal (\$30, for 12; 103 Oldtowne Rd Seguin Texas 78155-4099 USA)
Dennis Stacy's editorship continues to impress and with 12 issues a year this is excellent value. A pretty wide diversity of topics is on offer.

IUR June (\$30, for 6; 2457 W. Peterson Ave, Chicago IL 60659 USA)
I make no secret of my support for the IUR, keeping alive the work of founder J Allen Hynek. This has a special debate about key Roswell evidence.

BOOKS OF THE MOMENT



A new album from Glasgow rock group CE IV is a highlight. Their excellent concept 'Abduction' (presenting an abduction in words and music from the viewpoint of the percipient) is going to be hard to beat and the new work - 'Visions' - really doesn't try. In fact, it contains 5 tracks from that concept with a new studio re-recording and so changed in character somewhat, plus 5 other new tracks (including their classic 'Warminster Nights'). All have UFO or paranormal themes. The result is an enjoyable 10 song 'set' that they play live at a gig. 'Visions' is available on tape for £6 (same price as 'Abduction', which is also still available). Cheques payable to 'CE IV Music' via 102 Ferness Oval Glasgow Scotland G21 3SE.

THE CIRCLE MAKERS by Andrew Collins Softback 350 pages, with photos £4.95
In shops or post free from ABC Books Box 189 Leigh on sea Essex SS9 1NF

Andy Collins has the ability to produce books of his own that are far superior to most professional publishing ventures. This is one of them. It has a superb cover, excellent design and for its size and content is extremely well priced. Why pay £15 for a book from a big publishers when you can get one of his (probably far better) ABC titles for much less?

Aside from its excellent looks, the book is a treat to read as well. One thing you can say about Andy is that he knows how to tell a story. This time he leaves behind earth mysteries (or does he?) to relate his quest to discover the gen on crop circles. As you might expect the result is a highly entertaining yarn that takes you through the subject in a perceptive way.

However, this is not another yawn-inducing book about crop circles. It uses this subject to introduce the topic of Reich's Orgone energy. Most of you probably only know of this through Kate Bush's song 'Cloudbusting' (listen to the words). But in fact it is a curious tale of the supernatural about the alleged discovery of a mysterious force in the air and the repercussions of that finding. If Orgone is real, Andy argues, then it offers new insights into the crop circle mystery which can bridge the gap between the natural plasma vortex concept of the physicists and the curiosities that don't seem to fit and yet which cereology throws upon us all the time.

Whether you actually believe that he is correct probably doesn't matter in the end. He makes a good case and has ample references and illustrations. But even if you dispute his conclusions you will find this to be a truly enjoyable book. If you are interested in crop circles, earthlights, strange energy forces and the like you definitely won't regret investing £5 in this thoroughly enthralling text. Heartily recommended.

THE OMEGA PROJECT by Kenneth Ring Hardback, 320 pages William Morrow \$20

Not yet available in a UK edition (but there are hopes of this). However, you should be able to get it via one of the specialist mail order sellers (eg Specialist Knowledge in Frome or Enigma Books in Burnley). If not - they should be selling it as this is one of the most important new books about UFOs to appear in some years. Even Whitley Strieber (despite having withdrawn from the field) pens the foreword and seems impressed by it. That might give you some inkling as to the direction that its author takes in trying to demonstrate a whole new approach to the CE IV.

Ken Ring is an American psychologist who is a founder of research into the 'Near Death Experience' (or NDE). These are remarkable visionary encounters which are being experienced by people all over the world at times of great stress (commonly near death) and yet which share characteristics so clearly that they appear more than mere hallucinations.

That description may indicate why there is a hint of a link with the abduction phenomenon, a not dissimilar global vision, and there are those who have already debated the link. Few have been UFOlogists, sadly. Ken Ring, as an NDE researcher had not been one of them either. He, like his colleagues, was fairly sceptical of abduction stories. Peter Hough and I can confirm this as as we tried several years ago to persuade Ring's British protege, psychologist Margot Grey, to take up our offer of joint CE IV/NDE research.

Anyhow, eventually Ring did see the light and did start to research patterns. Luckily he was switched on to the non-American UFO literature from early on and so quickly realised that it was not all tales of little grey men in freezers. He very fairly credits the input from UFOlogy in this book, which not only acts as a synthesis of these more avant garde looks at the abduction but goes way beyond with his research into the Omega concept.

He examines NDE evidence and abduction material separately, then shows the extensive parallels that exist between them. A major statistical survey has been carried out for this book and all the results are given in scientific fashion in the back. From this data he concludes that something beyond imagination and yet not simply mundane reality is happening in these experiences and that they may reflect the next stage in the evolution of human consciousness within a realm he calls the 'imaginal' (ie a sort of image based reality). Its the sort of idea with definite potential.

Eighteen months ago Peter Hough and I did the first draft of a book out this winter on the afterlife experience. As I had been exchanging a lot of data with Ken Ring whilst his work proceeded, we wrote a section about the NDE/CE IV link from our own perspective and research. It was thrown out by the publisher on the grounds that you could not bring UFOs into a book about life after death! Now the company are considering publishing Ring's book, an irony not lost on them (or us!) This shows that a concept which on the face of it is ludicrous might, in fact, be the key towards understanding two very real and yet equally baffling paranormal experiences.

If you ever hope to figure out the CE IV then you must read this book.

THEY CAME FROM SW 19 by Nigel Williams Hardback, 250 pages Faber & Faber

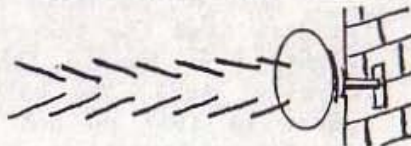
Nigel Williams is a literary novelist, compared by some to a modern Dickens, even tipped to win the Booker Prize in future. As such his novels get lots of attention and serious reviews - even when they are about UFOs!

In fact, UFOs is only one theme of this work. Spiritualism is another. The result is comic opera on the subject of belief within our technocratic society. Its heroes are a UFOlogist whose disappearance is regarded as a 'spacenap' by the narrator, a sardonic teenager whose dad has just died (or has he... that's another key issue, as the seances, all too earthly spectral re-appearances and innocent philosophies on life and death all indicate).

The book is deliciously written with insights and amusing asides. But then what else do you expect me to say about a novel which uses terminology that I invented and has one key character quote from my book 'Abduction'! This is also referred to as 'the only really reliable guide to the spacenapping phenomenon' (who am I to disagree?) Oh, of course, the character who says it is a bit of a weirdo, but you can't have everything, can you?

MEDIA MATTERS

A look at UFOs in the public eye



We have got our UFOs back at last this summer. The crop circles that have snatched them away from the media gaze for several years finally gave up the ghost. Mind you, there were conflicting views about whether there are any UFOs to be reported now the interest is back!

The media had a field day after the UMIST (Manchester) conference in April when Jacques Vallee, George Fawcett and I gave differing views about the ETH. A widely syndicated story reached the Sunday Mirror and Independent and picked up on just one thing in my lecture. It was presented as a claim of a 'hidden invasion by sophisticated aliens', adding that the outbreak 'was vastly more widespread than people believe'. We perceive them as we do because 'science fiction left (us) impressionable to conventional images'.

This was a somewhat simplistic version of what I was arguing (based on 'Looking for the aliens', then out). Still it obviously got people talking.

Ah, yes, but was this fantastic notion premature? Philip Mantle seemingly thought so. Promoting the 'ET or not ET' (Sheffield) conference in August his very different comments attracted wide attention. 'I can't believe in ET any more' bemoaned the Bradford Telegraph (10 Aug) under a picture of ET (or was it Philip?). This was presented as a 'shock announcement' to come as a 'blow' to the conference. The Mail on Sunday (9 Aug) had 'A close encounter of the vanishing kind' which cited Philip Mantle finally expunging the ETH; 'When I started out, I was convinced we were being visited by aliens. Now I am not... I can see no evidence at all of extraterrestrial involvement.' Allegedly the fall off in British UFO sightings was 'phenomenal'; from hundreds they had plunged to 56 a year.

I must disagree. It is true that in the early 80's numbers decreased. I recall similar comments a decade ago (indeed I made some of them then) but there has been a recent upturn. Many cases remain IFOs (eg of laser shows) and good close encounters are few and far between, but the UFO sighting itself is on the increase not the decrease. I doubt NUN readers will have noticed a dearth of sightings in these pages over the past year or two.

You would not think UFOlogy dead if you read the Rochdale Observer. The local UFO community keeps it on full alert. It started on 15 Apr with a big piece 'little grey blue men in shot down UFO' which rather belatedly plugged the tale of a 'UFO downed by laser canon in South Africa'. I gather that Cynthia Hind (Africa's top UFOlogist) has been unable to confirm this well known yarn. But the local press story referenced a 'Quest' magazine report as 'the only British publication to have written about the incident'. Later the local UFO group wrote to congratulate Quest and the newspaper for going 'out on a limb' and having 'the guts to print such delicate information... the Rochdale public can be justifiably proud of its UFO research group and its local newspaper. Its another first for Rochdale.'

Not all agreed with this diagnosis. On 29 April someone named simply ET presented a fairly sober, sceptical piece disputing the story. Of course, a member of the Rochdale group replied to this on 6 May calling ET's comments 'naive, narrow minded and lacking intelligence', then added that there was evidence that a UFO related project had been found to be top secret '38 levels above that of the atom bomb' (in my view, if bureaucracy really is stupid enough to devise more than 38 secrecy levels it deserves all it gets from any UFOs daft enough to want to visit earth.)

Another Rochdale UFOlogist entered the fray on 9 May by advising readers that the Observer's own editor was 'silenced' in 1957 over a UFO sighting at Wardle (oh, and 'the MoD are running scared about the crop circles' too). The editor felt need to reply that staff working on the paper in 1957 do not remember being silenced - but 'do remember...two pranksters launching an inflatable dinghy over Brown Wardle as a hoax'.

Back came the undaunted UFOlogists (13 May) determined to answer this charge. One cited the Heywood Advertiser in 1989 (who allegedly stated that the MoD had cautioned a young reporter on the case in 1957). Another agreed (and indeed it was said to be in 'Above Top Secret' as such), then challenged the editor to print the full story on this and a later incident at Heywood in May 1989 'when phones went dead in an ambulance station whilst three UFOs hovered overhead'. The writer claimed to be the 'only' UFO investigator to interview these witnesses and suggests they were silenced.

Luckily, NUN readers can judge this 1989 Heywood case for themselves. Despite the above claim to exclusivity, MUFORA and the IUN launched a joint investigation into the case before anyone. The police actually called Peter Hough in the middle of the night as it all unfolded and by breakfast time we were interviewing witnesses and working with Jodrell Bank; who even ran a special computer programme to help try to resolve the case. Claims about dead phones and silenced witnesses need to be seen alongside the full story which you can read in NUN issues 137 and 138 (June and August 1989).

The final word (so far) comes from the Observer editor ref the 1957 case, noting one of the hoaxers confessed about the dinghy... End of story???

NB: You will note that little space has been devoted to UFO sightings this issue. This is not because we don't have any to print. We do. It was simply a question of time and space and the need to publish other matters. We will catch up in the October issue, which should follow soon.

BRIEF CASES:

Some current investigations



Case 7024 Winter 1970 Drumchapel, Glasgow, Scotland Inv: F. Storrier A5-5

Witness lives near Glasgow airport. Saw a copper coloured dumb-bell shape pass slowly across sky by the moon. No follow up possible as dates unknown and too old. No sound was heard, witness convinced it was not an aircraft. Investigator is police officer and considers case credible.

August 1979 Swansea, South Wales

Inv: Kerry Blower B2-5

Several people in neighbourhood observed steady some white lights moving in arc from east to west across sky over 1½ hour period. Coastguard called and police eventually arrived. Husband and wife who reported it belatedly disagree on strangeness and numbers. Investigator tends to agree with husband that objects sound very like artificial satellites passing over.

June 1990 Malahide Beach, Dublin, Ireland Inv: Delaney/Griffin

Not a sighting but a 'UFO' that turned up on a photo taken on the beach and only spotted after development. Film kept undeveloped for about a year after

the incident. It does look very artificial and investigation by analysts will proceed but looking at its triangular shape, density and aura around the edges my bet is that it is an artifact of the developing process rather than a real object that was in the sky at the time that went unnoticed.

Case 9113 Early 1991 New Earswick, North Yorks

D5-5

Report from a reader describing sighting by his wife. She was driving into York to pick him up from a social evening when she was surprised by an object falling in front of the windscreen. It hit this and the car bonnet with an audible thud, stayed there a few moments, then vanished. It was described as a very pale blue, opaque ball the size of a small football, glowing with a slightly fuzzy hue. Her mind then became 'vague' and she got the odd idea that she had hit someone and did a U turn back to the area. There were no lights or cars present (which she now considers odd). As she drove away (locking all the doors) she became persuaded that someone was sitting in the back, even turning to reassure herself. She told her husband but they dismissed it as trivial at the time; although noting that the 5 mile journey had taken less time than it should according to the car clock (which has worked normally since). In the morning the front onside headlight was smashed and covered in yellow powder like egg. The onside indicator was also not working. Superficially the UFO sounds like a possible ball lightning encounter, but what of the other events? Any thoughts?

Case 9118 27 September 1991 Ipstones, Staffs

MUFORA

B4-6

Man (who is a glider pilot) and girlfriend had rented remote cottage for week to tour Peak District. At 02.00 took dog for walk and saw pale green light rotate through 360 degrees then vanish. Reappeared several more times at different points low on horizon and bright white light like flashlight also seen nearby. Next day checked area and found no marks. Cottage owner suggested rabbit hunters using spotlights and rotating light atop vehicle but idea not accepted by witness who also does not think it was helicopter.

Case 9119 12 November 1991 Worsley Hall, Wigan, Lancs MUFORA/Hough A4-6

Mrs M passing neighbours at 17.40 when saw rugby ball with four different (green, orange, etc) coloured lights in line, hovering from side to side. It then turned at angle and vanished into cloud. Alerted Mr B (an environmental technical officer). He used binoculars to focus on bright 'star' and saw 3 green/white lights moving in zig zag paths for 20 minutes until cloud covered over the sky. All were in south. A laser light display was on in the area and is thought likely option... However, see case 9120 below.



1990 Dublin

Case 9119

Case 9120

Case 9207

Case 9120 22 November 1991 Walton, Liverpool, Lancs MUFORA/Glover A5-5

At 17.20 ten days after the above Mrs L was going to collect fish and chips when she saw lights on a crescent shape in the south. Mostly these were of a

white colour but the two end ones were red. They went behind flats, then shot across the sky and at one point went out and relit in sequence. There was no sound. She arrived at work (as a nursing auxiliary) to report the sighting and (staff nurse) Mark Glover arrived with a Tim Good UFO book! Mrs L. also had a dream of sleeping in a hotel and seeing a UFO with windows hovering outside. There are obvious similarities between this case and the one from Wigan. The excellent investigation report has found no solution.

Case 9207 31 March 1992 Huyton, Liverpool, Lancs Roy Sandbach B4-6

Mrs H and adult son were in car on M57 motorway heading home to Bacup. At Huyton they saw an object in the north towards Wigan. At first they assumed it was a light on a pylon, then it resolved into a domed shape with cream coloured windows and a mass of multi-coloured small lights (pink, yellow, green, etc) studded into the base. They watched it move away from view. Checks suggest an airship was flying locally at the time, but this is unproven.

F I N A L W O R D S

Lots of autumn lectures coming up to brighten the dark nights:-

Sat 26 September City Circles Symposium. Andy Collins presents his crop circle theories with guests at the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London 10am onward:- Tickets £5 contact ABC Books PO Box 189 Leigh on Sea SS9 1NF

Sat 3 October Author 'Lazarus' (?) resurrects UFOs for a lecture to BUFORA at usual venue, London Business School, near Baker St tube, 6.30 pm onward

Tue 6 October Jenny Randles lectures on 'UFOs and how to see them' as part of Warrington Book Festival at Westbrook library (near the Burtonwood M62 services) at 7.30 pm. Details via Cheshire Libraries (T: 0925-571232)

Sat 24 October One day BUFORA conference at Dr Johnson's House, 40 Bull Street, Birmingham city centre (1.30 pm onward). Robert France will tell his CE 4 story (see article this issue of NUN) and Jenny Randles will appear as above. Details from BUFORA HQ (0532-763218) or LUFOIC (address below)

NUFON Regional Groups

SPI	(W. Scotland)	41 The Brees, Tullibody, Clackmannanshire	FK10 2TT
SRUFO	(E. Scotland)	14 Relugas Gardens Edinburgh Scotland	EH 9 2PU
NLUFOIG	(Cumbria)	89 Bare Lane, Morecambe, Lancashire	LA 4 6RN
FUFOIG	(Fylde Coast)	293 Devonshire Rd, Blackpool, Lancashire	FY 2 0TW
MUFORA*	(North West)	6 Silsden Ave, Lowton, Lancashire	WA 3 1EN
IUN	(Yorkshire)	1 Woodhall Dr, Healey Lane, Batley, W. Yks	WF17 7SW
SSPR	(Derbyshire)	17 Old Quarry Ave, Wales, Sheffield	S 31 8RW
SKYSCAN	(Staffs)	116 Repton Rd, Burton on Trent, Staffs	DE11 7AE
EMUFORA	(Notts)	8 Roosa Close, Bulwell, Nottingham	NG 6 7BL
PARASEARCH	(W. Midlands)	79 Sandringham Rd, Stourbridge, W. Mid	DY 8 5HL
LUFOIC	(E. Midlands)	12 Unicorn C/van, Unicorn St, Thurmaston	LE 4 8AX
MUFORC	(Northants)	46 Occupation Rd, Corby, Northants	NN17 2EF

* NUFON archive files held in central Manchester accessible c/o MUFORA T: 0942-604265

You can now visit the files by train! Bona fide researchers welcome but call number above in advance.